## Lancaster County Substance Abuse Action Coalition Keep On Track - Criminal Justice Team Adult November 30, 2004

Present were: Lynn Buchanan, St. Monica's, Kim Etherton, Drug Court, Pat Holmquist, Lutheran Family Services, Steve Rowoldt, Probation, Otto Schultz, SAAC

Next Meeting: January 25, 2005, 7:30 a.m. 555 So. 9<sup>th</sup> St.

We are now focusing on small projects that we can accomplish (rather than on trying to repair and upgrade the entire criminal justice and substance abuse systems).

- 1. **Standardizing Alcohol/Drug Evaluations for Criminal Justice.** We decided to leave the agreement in its current form. Concerns had been raised about naming the CASI and ASI as the formats, but we are likely to have to change the agreement before anything happens with them anyway. We will also wait to implement the agreement until we have a clearer view of what the State is going to do sometime in January.
- 2. Speeding up the process between referral for evaluation and court appearance. When the Coalition is able to make a list of evaluators who have signed the agreement, criminal justice will be able to direct offenders to that list when selecting someone for an evaluation. They will also request that offenders sign the authorization to release information right there and give them no more than three days to notify the criminal justice professional of what name to put in. This should go a long way to eliminating evaluation shopping.
- 3. Adding an **Orientation Class for Self-Help groups** for first offenders. Everyone in this meeting seemed to think it was a good idea and we will go forward with the providers to establish standards for this class on Thursday at 1:30.
- 4. **Standardizing an authorization to release information**: We believe that Jerome Barry of the Independence Center has already done one and Otto will ask him for another copy of it, unless Kim finds it in her files.
- 5. **Big Training Day** coming in the spring: There is a major one and a half day training event planned for May 9 (all day) and 10. It is being designed to appeal to Treatment, Prevention and Criminal Justice professionals.
- 6. NA AA Disruptions caused by legal offenders. The primary problem is that NA and AA people seem to believe that inappropriate behavior at their meetings cannot be discussed outside of those meetings. We believe that we could promote better communication if they announced at the beginning of the meetings the limits on their confidentiality. Namely, that inappropriate or disruptive behavior in a meeting is not protected by confidentiality. The Criminal Justice and Treatment programs can act decisively when they have specific facts about an individual's behavior.